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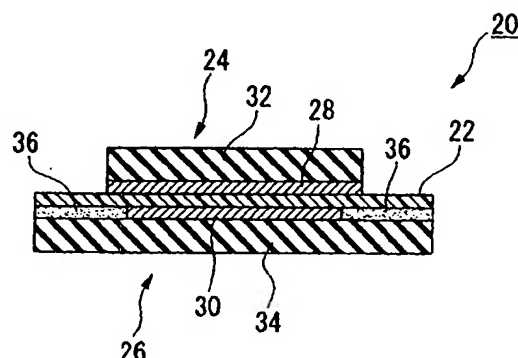
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(54) Membrane electrode assembly and fuel cell

(57) In order to provide a membrane electrode assembly and a fuel cell in which the thickness of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane is thin by enhancing self-protection of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane, a membrane electrode assembly (20) comprises a solid polymer electrolyte membrane (22) and a pair of gas diffusion electrode layer (24 and 26) having catalyst layers (28 and 30) and gas diffusion layers (24 and 26). The

catalyst layers of the gas diffusion electrode layer sandwich the solid polymer electrolyte membrane, one surface of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane is covered by the gas diffusion electrode layer (26) and the other surface of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane extends over the gas diffusion electrode layer (24), and ends of the catalyst layer of one gas diffusion electrode layer are disposed to be offset to ends of the catalyst layer of the other gas diffusion electrode layer.

FIG. 1



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 26 January 2005	Examine: Knoflachner, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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